

|

May 27, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

RESPITE CENTER FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND FAMILIES – STATUS REPORT

On January 14, 2003, your Board instructed my office to review the Respite Center for Homeless Women and Families, as proposed by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and Women's Care Cottage, and to determine to what extent funds available to the County could be utilized to help fund this project. This is to provide you with a status report.

The LAHSA, working together with the non-profit Women's Care Cottage, is seeking between \$1.0 million to \$1.5 million to develop the Center. The original plan for the new facility was to offer short-term shelter and intensive case management with a focus on housing placement, harm reduction and family preservation. The plan was for the Center to include up to 30 beds and provide on-site services to approximately 130 adults and children per day.

The Center would be located outside of, but proximate to, downtown and would serve homeless women and families from throughout the County. Based on discussions with LAHSA, the current site under consideration is located in the City of Los Angeles near the intersection of Virgil Avenue and Beverly Boulevard. Although this property is located in the Second District, it is near the First and Third Districts.

The LAHSA has committed to fund the Center's staffing and operations at 100 percent the first year, and thereafter at 75 percent. LAHSA has indicated that it would not require County funds to pay the operating costs. The Women's Care Cottage is also seeking program sponsorships to help finance operating costs.

Each Supervisor
May 27, 2003
Page 2

The City of Los Angeles has committed \$1.6 million in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to this project. The funds would pay for planning and pre-development and nearly 55 percent of the project acquisition costs. Additional capital funds are required to support the purchase of property, architectural design and engineering, and construction costs.

The Community Development Commission informed my staff that, as a result of the blend of services the Center was planning to deliver, Home Investment Partnerships Program funds and the City of Industry Redevelopment Housing Set-aside funds could not be used. Women's Care Cottage is reconsidering the Center's housing type and program to meet the qualifications necessary to utilize City of Industry funds.

To ensure that we allow enough time to thoroughly explore any and all funding opportunities, we are requesting an additional 60 days to complete this report. We will forward the findings to you no later than July 20, 2003.

Please let me know if you have any questions or your staff may contact Kathy House, of my staff, at (213) 974-1323.

DEJ:DL
KH:JB:kd

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Community Development Commission